

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11

SAJ-01 ACDA-05 CU-02 /078 W

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R 231729Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6657

USMISSION USBERLIN

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 03006

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, GW, US, UK, FR, UR, GE

SUBJECT: "GERMAN NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR ART AND  
CULTURE" - FRG ASKS ALLIED VIEW ON BERLIN AS  
POSSIBLE LOCATION

REFS: (A) DAVIS -GERMAN LETTER, FEB. 6, 1976 (CC TO EUR/  
CE, CHESTER)

(B) MEMCON OF HERZ-ANDERSON (EUR/CE) DISCUSSION,  
FEB. 3, 1976

(C) BONN 5156, MAR. 29, 1974

(D) USBER 506, MAR. 20, 1974

SUMMARY: FRG HAS GIVEN ALLIES IN BONN GROUP A STATUS  
REPORT ON BUND-LAENDER DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED NATIONAL  
FOUNDATION AND HAS ASKED ALLIED VIEWS ON BERLIN AS  
POSSIBLE LOCATION. ALLIED REPS EXPRESSED MISGIVINGS  
ABOUT ESTABLISHING FOUNDATION IN BERLIN AND ASKED FRG  
REP FOR FULLER INFO ON PURPOSE AND FUNCTIONS OF FOUND-  
ATION. END SUMMARY.

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1. FRG REP (HENZE) AT FEB. 17 BONN GROUP MEETING SAID HE WISHED TO GIVE ALLIES A STATUS REPORT ON BUND-LAENDER DISCUSSIONS OF ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL FOUNDATION (NF). HENZE SAID INFORMATION ALLIES ALREADY HAD (A REFERENCE TO KREUZER REPORT" -- SEE REFS) WAS OUT OF DATE SINCE THE BUND-LAENDER DISCUSSIONS HAD RESULTED IN MANY CHANGES. HE WAS NOT INFORMED IN DETAIL REGARDING THE SPECIFIC FUNCTIONS OF THE NF, BUT AS NOW FORESEEN:

A) IT WOULD BE ESTABLISHED AS A FOUNDATION UNDER PRIVATE LAW AND NOT PUBLIC LAW;

B) THERE WOULD BE NO FORMAL LINK BETWEEN NF AND PRUSSIAN CULTURAL PROPERTY FOUNDATION;

C) NF WOULD BE CAPITALIZED AT ABOUT DM 10 MILLION;

D) ANNUAL COSTS OF ABOUT DM 50 MILLION P.A. WOULD BE BORNE HALF BY BUND AND HALF BY LAENDER;

E) NF WOULD BE COMPOSED OF SECRETARIAT WITH SECRETARY GENERAL AND STAFF OF ABOUT 10, COUNCIL WITH BUND AND LAENDER EACH HAVING 11 VOTES, AND KURATORIUM CONSISTING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ARTS; AND

F) DISCUSSION OF LOCATION HAD NOT YET BEGUN AND SITE WAS THEREFORE STILL AN OPEN QUESTION.

2. HENZE SAID THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR HOPED TO CONCLUDE THE BUND-LAENDER TALKS BY APRIL. HE SAID IT WAS KNOWN THAT SOME OF THE LAENDER WISHED TO ESTABLISH THE NF IN BERLIN, AND HE ASKED FOR ALLIED VIEWS.

3. FRENCH REP (BOISSIEU) SAID HE WOULD RULE OUT

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 03006

BERLIN "IF I WERE A GERMAN" SINCE ESTABLISHING NF THERE WOULD RULE OUT FOREVER CULTURAL COOPERATION WITH GDR. HE LEFT IT AMBIGUOUS, HOWEVER, WHETHER HE WOULD ACTUALLY POSE FORMAL OBJECTIONS.

4. UK REP (HITCH) SAID HE THOUGHT BERLIN LOCATION WOULD BE PROVOCATIVE TO USSR AS WELL AS TO GDR AND HE DID NOT BELIEVE ESTABLISHING NF UNDER PRIVATE LAW WOULD REALLY HELP IN THIS RESPECT. US REP SAID HE HAD BEEN STRUCK BY POLITICAL-CULTURAL ASPECTS FORESEEN FOR NF IN PREVIOUS FRG MEMO ON SUBJECT, AND ALSO BY PROVISIONS REGARDING PROTECTION AND CARE OF EAST GERMAN CULTURAL PROPERTY. THE COMPOSITION OF THE NF COUNCIL ALSO GAVE A STRONG GOVERNMENTAL APPEARANCE. WHAT WAS REQUIRED WAS A CURRENT DESCRIPTION OF THE NF AS CONCEIVED DURING THE BUND-LAENDER TALKS.

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5. HENZE RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN THE DETAILED DESCRIPTION REQUESTED.

6. THE LAST BONN GROUP DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT HAD BEEN ON JAN. 26 WHEN BOISSIEU COMPLAINED ABOUT A JAN. 24/25 DIE WELT STORY WHICH SAID THAT US AND PARTICULARLY FRANCE WERE OPPOSED TO NF BEING ESTABLISHED IN BERLIN. BOISSIEU COMPLAINED (A) ABOUT APPEARANCE OF BONN GROUP INFORMATION IN PRESS AND (B) THAT THE STORY WAS WRONG SINCE ALL PREVIOUS BONN GROUP DISCUSSIONS HAD AMOUNTED ONLY TO THE ALLIES

SKING QUESTIONS (COMMENT: AND RECEIVING ASSURANCES THAT NO DECISIONS WERE BEING TAKEN BY FRG RE BERLIN). LUECKING SAID HE AGREED WITH BOISSIEU AND ADDED THERE WAS NO NEED FOR ALLIED OBJECTIONS TO A BERLIN LOCATION BECAUSE FRG OBJECTIONS WERE SUFFICIENT. HE SAID SETTING UP THE NF IN BERLIN WOULD CLOSE THE DOOR TO FRG/GDR CULTURAL COOPERATION FOR YEARS.

7. COMMENT: GIVEN OBVIOUS PROBLEMS WHICH SETTING UP THE NF IN BERLIN WOULD CAUSE WITH GDR, IT SEEMS TO US THAT BONN MAY HAVE IN MIND USING LIKELY ALLIED OBJECTIONS TO COVER ITSELF POLITICALLY VIS-A-VIS THE OPPOSITION DURING THIS ELECTION YEAR. AS HENZE SAID, SOME LAENDER (READ CDU OR CSU-GOVERNED LAENDER) ARE KNOWN TO FAVOR BERLIN AS SITE FOR NF. IT WOULD CERTAINLY MAKE THINGS EASIER FOR THE SCHMIDT GOVERNMENT TO LET IT BE KNOWN THAT A BERLIN LOCATION HAD BEEN VETOED BY THE ALLIES.

8. WE WILL OF COURSE NEED TO RESERVE JUDGMENT ON THE POLITICAL ADVISABILITY OF ESTABLISHING THE FOUNDATION IN BERLIN UNTIL WE SEE A CURRENT DESCRIPTION OF ITS PROPOSED FUNCTIONS. BASED ON WHAT WE NOW KNOW, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE HARM, IF ANY, WOULD BE TO FRG/GDR RELATIONS RATHER THAN TO THE ALLIED POSITION IN BERLIN. THAT BEING THE CASE, WE WOULD NOT WISH THE ALLIES TO BE PUT IN THE POSITION OF APPEARING TO VETO AN FRG PROPOSAL (IF IN FACT A DEFINITE PROPOSAL TO LOCATE THE FOUNDATION IN BERLIN IS MADE). ON THE OTHER HAND, IF THE GOVERNMENT SHARES THE OBVIOUS MISGIVINGS OF THE

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FONOFF WORKING LEVEL AND IS LOOKING FOR A CRUTCH TO LEAN ON, IT MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE TO JOIN IN AN ALLIED-FRG CONSENSUS OPPOSING A BERLIN LOCATION.

9. WE WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR MORE DETAILS REGARDING FORESEEN FUNCTIONS OF NF AS INDISPENSABLE TO BONN GROUP CONSULTATIONS OF MATTER.  
HILLENBRAND

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